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From: joel zdepski [mailto:joel@zdepski.com]

Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2005 3:08 PM

To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Subject: MLPAComments: MLPA Plan

My name is Joel Zdepski, I am a resident at 470 Levin Ave, Mountain View CA, 94040.

I am one of the lucky residents of this state who can enjoy the states beauty both above and below the water. I scuba dive approximately 40 to 50 times/year in the Monterey/Carmel vicinity. As such, I am always struck by the sheer difference in bio mass between Point Lobos and any other near-shore dive sight. The animals are bigger and more numerous within in the park and adjacent areas, such as the south end of Carmel River Beach. I think that significant numbers of fish "volunteer" to leave the park and to enter the surrounding areas where they can be exploited by extractive commercial or recreational activities. Consequently, I would be very supportive of the a measured increase in these types of protected areas. From a recreation point of view, I feel the region from Ano Nuevo to Point Conception should be a priority for the location of MPAs.

Thank you for your diligence in protecting our near-shore resources.

Regards,

Joel Zdepski